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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 11 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose a statement by the delegation of Japan in response to the remarks made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations in exercise of the right of reply, on 9 October 2013, in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 111.

(*Signed*) Motohide **Yoshikawa**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

13-52462 (E) 241013

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Annex to the letter dated 11 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of Japan in response to the remarks made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply, on 9 October 2013, at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly

The Government of Japan rejects the remarks made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations in exercise of the right of reply at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly on 9 October 2013, in reference to the abduction issue and the nuclear development programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stated that the abduction issue has been resolved. However, this is against the June 2008 Japan-Democratic People's Republic of Korea Working-Level Consultations, in which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea changed its position that "the abductions issue has already been resolved", as well as against the August 2008 agreement outlining the objectives and concrete modalities of the full-scale investigation on the issue. The abduction issue is a matter of grave importance concerning the sovereignty of Japan as well as the life and safety of the Japanese citizens. The Abe administration recognizes that this issue should be addressed by the Government with a sense of priority and emergency, and is determined to resolve this issue completely. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to ensure the safety and immediate return of all abductees, to provide a full accounting of each abduction case, and to extradite those who are responsible for executing the abductions. As has been reported, including by the Special Rapporteur, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has abducted not only Japanese citizens, but also citizens of other nationalities. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond to the concerns of the international community in regard to the abduction issue and other human rights violations.

In reference to the nuclear development programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, these programmes, as well as the work of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in uranium enrichment, are serious violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The nuclear and ballistic missile development programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are totally unacceptable, and represent a grave challenge to the international non-proliferation regime centred on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as seriously undermine the peace and security of North-east Asia and the international community as a whole. Furthermore, recent reports suggest that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has restarted its Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Centre. If these reports are true, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has further violated the agreements made under the Six-Party Talks and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Government of Japan calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to resolve the abduction issue fully and completely, and to comply fully with all its international obligations and commitments, including the Security Council resolutions and the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks.